

Always a good day

Children at Walkerton Daycare Centre have lots to do

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BY LINDSEY KUGLIN
WHT Reporter

Fun and learning is synonymous for children attending the Walkerton Daycare Centre.

"Every week we have a new theme," supervisor Sharon Bross said, to keep things fresh. The week's activities will always be based on the theme.

While parents are at work, children are kept busy with crafts, outdoor time, free-play time, snacks, and nice mid-day nap.

The daycare, subsidized by the municipality, parents can save on childcare costs.

Walkerton's daycare, which opens its doors daily at 6:15 a.m. and runs until 6:15 p.m., costs \$31 per day for toddlers 18 months to two-and-a-half years, \$29 for two-and-a-half to five years, school-aged children are \$23 for a full day, or \$4.50 per hour for before and after school.

The centre has the capacity for 55 full-day children, and currently has 40. Before and after school spots are currently full, with 25 children.

Another benefit of municipal childcare, according to Bross, is that the centre is never closed.

"We won't phone and say we're sick. We won't be closed for holidays," she said. "We're always there for parents."

The daycare employs five full-time and two part-time teachers, who all have early childhood education diplomas, and up to date first aid and CPR certification.

Bross, who has worked in daycare for 22 years, and has been the supervisor in Walkerton for 14 years, said that the ECE diploma is not necessary to work at a daycare, but she requires it of her employees.

Children start their day with breakfast at 7:30, and get a snack at 8:30. They will typically get an hour of outdoor play in the morning, and will work on age-appropriate crafts, and participate in a 'circle' activity before lunch. The children will have a nap, or a rest, and another snack in the afternoon, and some more outdoor play time.

The lunches are prepared at the daycare, and follow Canada's food guide.



The Walkerton Daycare Centre offers a fun-filled day for children 18 months to six years old. Supervisor, Sharon Bross sits with the 'senior' children.

Lindsey Kuglin photo

The daycare is also inspected by the Ministry of Community and Social Services, and the fire and health departments to make sure everything is up to code.

"There's always someone checking up on us," Bross said.

The centre also offers programs for special needs children.

Speech therapists, behaviour specialists, and resource teachers regularly visit the centre to work with children, and offer support to the staff.

"It's nice because parents don't have to take a special trip to the city or anything. They just have to leave them here, and they don't have to take time off work," Bross said.

They also offer March Break and summer programs for school-aged children.

The daycare has two annual fundraisers coming up, which they use the proceeds to buy toys for the centre. They'll host a pizza day in early May, and hold a trike-a-thon in late May.

For more information, the Walkerton Daycare Centre can be reached at (519) 881-3123.

The Walkerton District Secondary School student council ran a food drive from March 31 to April 10. They held two contests for the food drive - the most food, and best decorated shopping cart. Mrs. Smith's Grade 12 class' Hawaiian cart, and Mr. Emman's Grade 11/12 class' Love Bug (that blasted Jimi Hendrix tunes) won the creativity competition. The class which raised the most food was Ms. Mackenzie's Grade 9 music class, with 300 pounds of food. The school raised more than 1,000 pounds for the Walkerton District Food Bank. From left: Aran Oberle, Jodi Lang, Tracy Klages, April Berry, Chantal Clarke, Autumn Hachey, Emily Von Hatten, Alyssa Song, Luke Albert, Brooke Niesen, Cole Clark, and Robbie Oliver (back) who was part of his Grade 9 French class' France cart display.

